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Wildlife of the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges

California-Oregon

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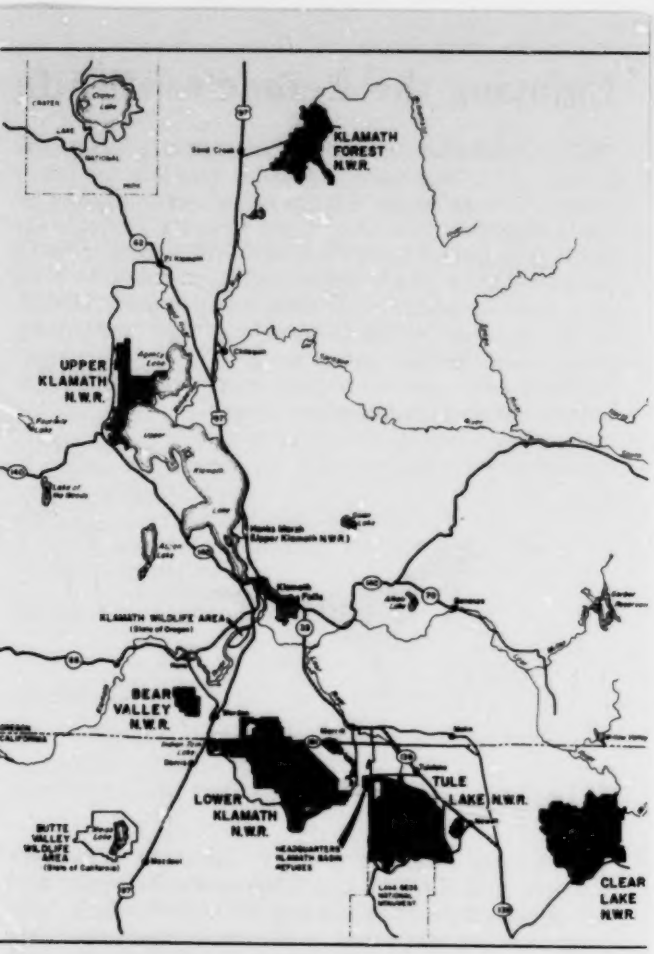
Welcome to the Klamath Basin Refuges

The Klamath Basin Refuges, located in southcentral Oregon and Northeastern California, are a complex of six national wildlife refuges - Clear Lake, Tule Lake, Lower Klamath, Bear Valley, Upper Klamath, and Klamath Forest. The first refuge in the complex, Lower Klamath NWR, was established in 1908 and was our nation's first waterfowl refuge. Except for Bear Valley NWR, which is a bald eagle wintering habitat refuge, the Klamath Basin Refuges have been established primarily to manage waterfowl. Prior to the 1900s, the Klamath Basin was composed of large shallow lakes and extensive marshes totalling nearly 185,000 acres. This immense marsh habitat was the home for untold thousands of marshbirds and annually attracted one-time fall peak populations of 6 million waterfowl. During the 1900s, the majority of the Basin marshes were reclaimed for agriculture. Approximately 36,000 acres of marsh and open water remain today, virtually all of it included in the refuges. The marshes are protected and managed to insure future habitat for one of the nation's largest concentrations of wildlife.

Habitat Diversity Supports Wildlife Diversity

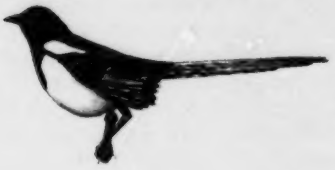
The six refuges encompass 151,375 acres of various habitat types - extensive marshes, open water, grassy meadows, coniferous forests, sagebrush and juniper uplands, grasslands, agricultural land, cliffs and rocky slopes. This variety supports a tremendous diversity and abundance of resident and migratory wildlife. A total of 411 species of wildlife have been observed or are considered present on the refuges.


KLAMATH FOREST N.W.R.
UPPER KLAMATH N.W.R.
KLAMATH WILDLIFE AREA
BEAR VALLEY N.W.R.
LOWER KLAMATH N.W.R.
TULE LAKE N.W.R.
BUTTE VALLEY WILDLIFE AREA
CLEAR LAKE N.W.R.

Oregon
California

Enjoying the Refuge's Wildlife

The study of wild animals in their natural habitats is becoming an increasingly popular pastime for many people. Viewing refuge wildlife is best accomplished on the self-guided auto tour route systems available on the Tule Lake and Lower Klamath NWRs. Your viewing pleasure can be greatly enhanced if you have binoculars or a spotting scope. This equipment enables wildlife to be observed from a distance, thus minimizing disturbance. Refuge visitors are encouraged to contact headquarters to get up-to-date information on current wildlife viewing opportunities.



Birds

The Klamath Basin Refuges are internationally known for their bird life. Of major interest are the spring and fall populations of migrating waterfowl which have respective one-time use peaks of one-half and one million birds. Best viewing times are March and early November. During winter, the refuges will support several hundred thousands waterfowl and large wintering populations of birds of prey, highlighted by the largest wintering concentration of bald eagles in the lower 48 states. The spring and summer months are alive with nesting and brood-rearing activities by waterfowl and other marshbirds such as grebes, pelicans, cormorants, herons, egrets, shorebirds, gulls and terns.

The following bird list contains 253 species that have been observed on or near the refuges. In addition, 39 species are listed as accidental (seen only once or twice). The lists's common names and taxonomic order are categorized into family and sub-family groups and are in accordance with the 6th edition (1983) of the A.O.U. Checklist of North American Birds. For ease in transition, we have included former common names in ( ) next to species that received significantly different names as a result of the 6th edition.

Bird List Key

The following symbols are used in the bird list.

Seasons

Sp - Spring, March through May
S - Summer, June through August
F - Fall, September through November
W - Winter, December through February

Abundance Codes

a - abundant, certain to be seen in abundance
c - common, certain to be seen in proper habitat
u - uncommon, present but not certain to be see because of low populations or
difficult observation opportunities
r - rare, known to be present but not every year
* - nesting species

Threatened/Endangered Species

Refuge Codes

The following location key is used in the event that a species is more apt to
be observed on a particular refuge or refuges.

CL - Clear Lake NWR
TL - Tule Lake NWR
LK - Lower Klamath NWR
BV - Bear Valley NWR
UK - Upper Klamath NWR
KF - Klamath Forest NWR

COMMON NAME	REFUGE CODE	Sp	S	F	W
LOONS					
Arctic Loon	TL, UK				
Common Loon	TL, UK		r		r
GREBES					
* Pied-billed Grebe			c		u
Horned Grebe			r		
* Red-necked Grebe	UK		u		
* Eared Grebe			a		u
* Western Grebe			a		u
PELICANS AND CORMORANTS					
* American White Pelican			c		
* Double-crested Cormorant			c		u
BITTERNS, HERONS AND EGRETS					
* American Bittern			u		r
* Least Bittern			r		
* Great Blue Heron			c		c
* Great Egret			c		r
* Snowy Egret			c		
Cattle Egret			r		
Green-backed Heron	TL, UK		r		
* Black-crowned Night-Heron			c		u
IBIS AND SPOONBILLS					
* White-faced Ibis			c		
WATERFOWL					
Tundra Swan					a
Trumpeter Swan					r
Greater White-fronted Goose			r		c
Snow Goose			r		c
Ross' Goose	TL, LK		r		c
Emperor Goose	TL, LK				r
Brant (Black Brant)					
* Canada Goose			c		c
* Wood Duck	UK		u		
* Green-winged Teal			r		u
* Mallard			c		c
* Northern Pintail			c		c
* Blue-winged Teal	TL, LK		u		
* Cinnamon Teal			a		r
* Northern Shoveler			c		c
* Gadwall			c		u
Eurasian Wigeon					u
* American Wigeon			u		c
* Canvasback			u		u
* Redhead			c		u
* Ring-necked Duck			u		u
Greater Scaup					r
* Lesser Scaup			u		c
Oldsquaw					r
Surf Scoter	TL, LK, UK				r

COMMON NAME	REFUGE CODE	Sp	S	F	W
Common Goldeneye			r		c
Barrow's Goldeneye					r
Bufflehead			r		u
* Hooded Merganser			r		u
Common Merganser			r		c
Red-breasted Merganser					r
* Ruddy Duck			c		u
VULTURES					
* Turkey Vulture			u		
OSPREY, KITES, EAGLES AND HAWKS					
* Osprey	LK, UK		u		
Black-shouldered Kite	TL, LK		r		r
* Bald Eagle			u		a
* Northern Harrier			c		
* Sharp-shinned Hawk			u		u
* Cooper's Hawk			u		u
* Northern Goshawk	BV, KF		u		u
* Swainson's Hawk			r		r
* Red-tailed Hawk			c		c
Ferruginous Hawk					r
Rough-legged Hawk					c
* Golden Eagle			u		c
FALCONS					
* American Kestrel			c		c
Merlin					u
* Peregrine Falcon			r		r
* Prairie Falcon	TL, LK		u		u
GALLINACEOUS BIRDS					
* Chukar	TL		u		u
* Ring-necked Pheasant	TL, LK		c		c
* Blue Grouse	KF		u		u
* Ruffed Grouse	UK		r		r
* Sage Grouse	CL		u		u
* California Quail	TL, LK, BV		c		c
* Mountain Quail	BV, UK		u		u
RAILS					
* Virginia Rail			u		r
* Sora			u		r
Common Moorhen	TL, LK		r		
* American Coot			a		c
CRANES					
* Sandhill Crane			u		
PLOVERS					
Black-bellied Plover	LK		r		
Lesser Golden-Plover	LK				
* Snowy Plover	LK		u		
Semipalmated Plover	LK		r		
* Killdeer			c		u

COMMON NAME	REFUGE CODE	Sp	S	F	W
STILTS AND AVOCETS					
* Black-necked Stilt			c		
* American Avocet			c		r
SHOREBIRDS					
Greater Yellowlegs			r		r
Lesser Yellowlegs			r		r
Solitary Sandpiper					
* Willet			c		
* Spotted Sandpiper			u		
Whimbrel		r			
* Long-billed Curlew			u		
Marbled Godwit			r		
Ruddy Turnstone			r		
Red Knot					
Sanderling			r		
Western Sandpiper			c		r
Least Sandpiper			u		r
Baird's Sandpiper	LK		r		
Pectoral Sandpiper					
Rock Sandpiper			r		r
Short-billed Dowitcher			r		
Long-billed Dowitcher			u		r
SNIPE					
* Common Snipe			u		r
PHALAROPES					
* Wilson's Phalarope			c		
Red-necked Phalarope			r		
Red Phalarope					
GULLS AND TERNS					
Franklin's Gull					
Bonaparte's Gull			u		
* Ring-billed Gull			a		c
* California Gull			a		c
Herring Gull					u
* Caspian Tern	CL, TL, LK		c		
* Forster's Tern			a		
* Black Tern			a		
DOVES					
* Mourning Dove			c		r
OWLS					
* Common Barn-Owl			c		c
* Western Screech-Owl	BV, UK, KF		r		r
* Great Horned Owl			c		c
* Northern Pygmy-Owl	BV, UK, KF		u		u
* Burrowing Owl	TL		u		
* Spotted Owl	BV, UK		u		u
* Great Gray Owl	UK, KF		r		r
* Long-eared Owl	BV, UK, KF		r		r
* Short-eared Owl	TL, LK		u		u
* Northern Saw-whet Owl	BV, UK, KF		r		r
GOATSUCKERS					
* Common Nighthawk			c		
* Common Poorwill			u		
SWIFTS					
* Vaux's Swift			u		

COMMON NAME	REFUGE CODE	Sp	S	F	W
HUMMINGBIRDS					
• Calliope Hummingbird	BV, UK, KF		u		
• Rufous Hummingbird			u		
KINGFISHERS					
• Belted Kingfisher			u		u
WOODPECKERS					
• Lewis' Woodpecker	BV, UK, KF		r		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	UK, KF		r		r
• Red-breasted Sapsucker	BV, UK, KF		u		u
• Williamson's Sapsucker	UK, KF		u		r
• Downy Woodpecker			u		u
• Hairy Woodpecker			u		u
• White-headed Woodpecker	BV, UK, KF		u		r
• Black-backed Woodpecker	UK, KF		r		r
• Northern Flicker			c		c
• Pileated Woodpecker	BV, UK		u		u
FLYCATCHERS					
• Olive-sided Flycatcher	BV, UK, KF		u		
• Western Wood-Pewee			c		
• Willow Flycatcher			u		
• Hammond's Flycatcher	BV, UK		u		
• Dusky Flycatcher	BV, UK, KF		u		
• Gray Flycatcher			u		
Western Flycatcher					
• Say's Phoebe			u		
• Ash-throated Flycatcher	CL, TL		u		
• Western Kingbird			c		
Eastern Kingbird			r		
LARKS					
• Horned Lark			c		c
SWALLOWS					
• Purple Martin			r		
• Tree Swallow			c		r
• Violet-green Swallow			u		
• Northern Rough-winged Swallow			u		
• Bank Swallow			c		
• Cliff Swallow			a		
• Barn Swallow			a		
JAYS, MAGPIES AND CROWS					
• Gray Jay	UK, KF		r		r
• Steller's Jay	BV, UK, KF		c		c
• Scrub Jay	CL, TL		u		u
• Pinyon Jay	CL		r		r
• Clark's Nutcracker	UK, KF		r		r
• Black-billed Magpie			c		c
• American Crow			r		r
• Common Raven			u		u

COMMON NAME	REFUGE CODE	Sp	S	F	W
CHICKADEES AND TITMICE					
* Black-capped Chickadee		u	u	u	u
* Mountain Chickadee	BV, UK, KF	c	c	c	c
* Chestnut-backed Chickadee	UK	u	u	u	u
* Plain Titmouse	CL	u	u	u	u
BUSHTITS					
* Bushtit		u	u	u	r
NUTHATCHES					
* Red-breasted Nuthatch	BV, UK, KF	u	u	u	u
* White-breasted Nuthatch	BV, UK, KF	u	u	u	u
* Pygmy Nuthatch	BV, UK, KF	u	u	u	u
CREEPERS					
* Brown Creeper	BV, UK, KF	u	u	u	u
WRENS					
* Rock Wren	CL, TL	c	c	c	u
* Canyon Wren	CL, TL	u	c	c	u
* Bewick's Wren		u	u	u	u
* House Wren		u	u	u	u
* Winter Wren		u	u	u	u
* Marsh Wren		c	c	c	u
KINGLETS, BLUEBIRDS AND THRUSHES					
* Golden-crowned Kinglet	BV, UK, KF	c	c	c	c
* Ruby-crowned Kinglet		c	r	c	
* Western Bluebird		u	u	u	u
Mountain Bluebird		r	u	u	u
* Townsend's Solitaire		u	u	c	u
Swainson's Thrush		r			
* Hermit Thrush	BV, UK	u	u		
* American Robin		c	c	c	u
Varied Thrush		r		r	
THRASHERS					
* Sage Thrasher	CL	u	u	u	
PIPITS					
Water Pipit		c		u	r
WAXWINGS					
Bohemian Waxwing		r		r	r
* Cedar Waxwing		u		u	u
SHRIKES					
Northern Shrike		u		u	c
* Loggerhead Shrike		r	c	c	u
STARLINGS					
* European Starling		c	c	c	c
VIREOS					
* Solitary Vireo	BV, UK, KF	u	c	u	
* Warbling Vireo	BV, UK, KF	u	c	u	

COMMON NAME	REFUGE CODE	Sp	S	F	W
WARBLERS					
* Orange-crowned Warbler		u	u	u	
* Nashville Warbler		u	u	u	
* Yellow Warbler		r	c		
* Yellow-rumped Warbler		c	c	c	
* Black-throated Gray Warbler		r	r	r	
Townsend's Warbler		u		u	
* Hermit Warbler	BV, UK		c		
* MacGillivray's Warbler		u	u	u	
* Common Yellowthroat		u	u	u	
* Wilson's Warbler		u	u	u	
Yellow-breasted Chat		r			
TANAGERS					
* Western Tanager		u	c	u	
GROSBEAKS AND BUNTINGS					
* Black-headed Grosbeak	UK	u	c	u	
* Lazuli Bunting		u	u	u	
TOWHEES AND SPARROWS					
* Green-tailed Towhee		u	u	r	
* Rufous-sided Towhee		c	u	u	r
* Brown Towhee	TL	u	u	u	u
* American Tree Sparrow	TL, LK	r		r	r
* Chipping Sparrow		u	c	u	r
* Brewer's Sparrow			c	c	
* Vesper Sparrow		u	u	u	
* Lark Sparrow		u	u	u	
* Sage Sparrow	CL	r	r	r	
* Savannah Sparrow		c	c	c	u
* Fox Sparrow		r	c	u	r
* Song Sparrow		c	c	c	u
Lincoln's Sparrow		u		u	
White-throated Sparrow		r		r	r
Golden-crowned Sparrow		c		c	u
White-crowned Sparrow		c		c	c
Harris' Sparrow		r	r	r	r
* Dark-eyed Junco		c	u	c	c
Lapland Longspur		r		r	r
Snow Bunting		r		r	r
BLACKBIRDS, MEADOWLARKS AND ORIOLES					
* Red-winged Blackbird		a	a	a	c
* Tricolored Blackbird		c	c	a	r
* Western Meadowlark		c	c	c	c
* Yellow-headed Blackbird		c	c	c	r
* Brewer's Blackbird		a	a	a	c
* Brown-headed Cowbird		c	c	c	r
* Northern Oriole	TL		c		

COMMON NAME	REFUGE CODE	Sp	S	F	W
FINCHES					
* Purple Finch	UK, KF		r		r
* Cassin's Finch	UK, KF		u		
* House Finch			c		c
* Red Crossbill	KF		u		u
* Pine Siskin	UK, KF		u		u
* Lesser Goldfinch			u		u
* American Goldfinch			u		u
Evening Grosbeak			u		u
WEAVER FINCHES					
* House Sparrow			c		c

Accidentals

Brown Pelican
Little Blue Heron
Barnacle Goose
Egyptian Goose
Ruddy Shelduck
American Black Duck
Garganey
Black Vulture
Red-shouldered Hawk
Gyrafalcon
Mountain Plover
Upland Sandpiper
Hudsonian Godwit
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Stilt Sandpiper
Ruff
Parasitic Jaeger
Long-tailed Jaeger
Mew Gull
Western Gull
Glaucous-winged Gull
Black-legged Kittiwake
Common Tern
Band-tailed Pigeon
White-winged Dove
Black-chinned Hummingbird
Black Phoebe
Northern Mockingbird
Bell's Vireo
Black-and-white Warbler
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
McCown's Longspur
Chestnut-collared Longspur
Bobolink
Orchard Oriole
Rosy Finch
Pine Grosbeak
Common Redpoll
Barred Owl

Mammals

All mammals listed are considered resident species with the exception of the bats which migrate out of the area during winter, much like some of the birds. Other mammal populations fluctuate on a seasonal basis due to hibernation, migrations between summer and winter ranges, and cyclical population fluctuations such as observed in rodents and predators.

The following animals listed by family, have been observed or are suspected (*) of being present based on current known home ranges. The names and order follow the "Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico, 1982," written by Jones, Carter, Genoways, Hoffman, and Rice (Occasional Paper Number 80, T Museum Texas Tech University).

Shrews
Vagrant Shrew
*Water Shrew
*Pacific Water Shrew
Trowbridge's Shrew
*Merriam's Shrew

Moles
*Shrew-Mole
Broad-footed Mole

Bats
Little Brown Myotis
Yuma Myotis
Long-eared Myotis
Fringed Myotis
Long-legged Myotis
California Myotis
Small-footed Myotis
Silver-haired Bat
Western Pipistrelle
Big Brown Bat
Hoary Bat
Townsend's Big-eared Bat
Pallid Bat
Brazilian Free-tailed Bat

Pikas
Pika

Hares and Rabbits
Nuttall's Cottontail
Snowshoe Hare
White-tailed Jack Rabbit
Black-tailed Jack Rabbit

Squirrels
Least Chipmunk
Yellow-pine Chipmunk
Allen's Chipmunk
Yellow-bellied Marmot
Belding's Ground Squirrel
California Ground Squirrel
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel
Western Gray Squirrel
Douglas' Squirrel
Northern Flying Squirrel

Pocket Gophers
*Botta's Pocket Gopher
*Northern Pocket Gopher
*Western Pocket Gopher

Pocket Mice and Kangaroo Rats
Great Basin Pocket Mouse
California Kangaroo Rat

Beavers
Beaver

New World Rats and Mice
Western Harvest Mouse
Deer Mouse
Canyon Mouse
*Brush Mouse

Pinon Mouse
*Northern Grasshopper Mouse
Dusky-footed Woodrat
Bushy-tailed Woodrat
Montane Vole
Long-tailed Vole
Sagebrush Vole
Muskrat

Old Word Rats and Mice
Norway Rat
House Mouse

Jumping Mice
Western Jumping Mouse

New World Porcupines
Pocupine

Canids
Coyote
*Red Fox
*Gray Fox

Bears
Black Bear

Ringtails and Raccoons
*Ringtail
Raccoon

Weasels and Relatives
Marten
Ermine
Least Weasel
Long-tailed Weasel
Mink
Badger
Western Spotted Skunk
Striped Skunk
River Otter

Cats
Mountain Lion
Bobcat

Elk and Deer
Elk
Mule Deer

Pronghorn
Pronghorn (Antelope)

Amphibians and Reptiles

A variety of amphibians and reptiles are found on the Klamath Basin Refuges. Amphibians prefer marshes, ditches, and streams while reptiles are usuly found in grassy, rocky, dry upland areas. These creatures are usually secretive by nature and requires a little effort on the refuge visitor's part to see them. They are only seen from spring through fall, choosing to hibernate during the Basin's cold winters. The Western Rattlesnake and the Night Snake are the only venomous reptiles present on the refuges. Visitors should be aware of their presence but not become too overly concerned as they are not present in very large numbers.

Amphibians
Long-toed Salamander
Great Basin Spadefoot
Bullfrog
Spotted Frog
Western Toad
Pacific Treefrog

Reptiles
Western Pond Turtle
Short-horned Lizard
Sagebrush Lizard
Western Fence Lizard
Side-blotched Lizard
Northern Alligator Lizard
Western Skink
Rubber Boa
Racer
Night Snake
Striped Whipsnake
Gopher Snake
Western Terrestrial Garter Snake
Common Garter Snake
Western Rattlesnake

Fishes

A variety of fish species are present in the waters of the Klamath Basin Refuges. The majority of these play an important role by serving as an abundant and excellent food source for the many fish-eating bird species found on the refuges.

The following fishes are listed by family in accordance with "A List of Common and Scientific Names of Fishes from the United States and Canada," 4th edition, 1980 by C. Robbins, R. Bailey, C. Bond, J. Brooker, E. Lachner, R. Lea and W. Scott.

Lampreys
Pit-Klamath Brook Lamprey
Pacific Lamprey

Sturgeons
White Sturgeon

Trouts
Rainbow Trout
Brown Trout
Brook Trout
Kokanee Salmon

Minnows
Tui Chub
Blue Chub
Fathead Minnow
Speckled Dace

Suckers
Lost River Sucker
Klamath Largescale Sucker
Shortnose Sucker

Catfishes
Brown Bullhead

Sunfishes
Sacramento Perch
Green Sunfish
Pumpkinseed
Bluegill
Largemouth Bass
White Crappie
Black Crappie

Perches
Yellow Perch

Sculpins
Klamath Lake Sculpin
Marbled Sculpin
Slender Sculpin

Acknowledgements

We are indebted to the many visiting professional and amateur wildlife observers who have assisted the refuge staff by providing important wildlife observations throughout the years. Our list is not considered final as we are sure new observations will continue to add to its quality and accuracy. We encourage and appreciate all observations and ask that they be reported to refuge headquarters as soon as possible.

We also would like to express special thanks to staff from the University of California-Davis, Oregon State University, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for their help in the preparation of this leaflet.

More Information

Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges headquarters is located five miles west of Tulelake, one-half mile south of the end of East-West Road. For further information contact:

Refuge Manager
Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges
Route 1 Box 74
Tulelake, CA 96134
Phone (916) 667-2231

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

RF11660 June 1989

Notes

Date_____ No. Species_____

Time Afield _____

Observers _____

Weather _____

Remarks _____

The refuges of Klamath Basin are six of more than 400 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The National Wildlife Refuge System is a network of lands and waters managed specifically for the protection of wildlife and wildlife habitat and represents the most comprehensive wildlife resource management program in the world. Units of the system stretch across the United States from northern Alaska to the Florida Keys, and include small islands in the Caribbean and South Pacific. The character of the refuges is as diverse as the nation itself.